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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,822	09/17/2003	Hirohmi Harada	242529US3	4038
22850	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.				BEATTY, ROBERT B
1940 DUKE STREET				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2852		

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,822	HARADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert Beatty	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-124 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 86-118 and 122-124 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7,21,23-24,26-34,48,50,52-62,76,78,80-84,119-121 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 8-20,22,25,35-47,49,51,63-75,77,79 and 85 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The title should recite at least the shutter.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7, 21, 23, 26-32, 34, 48, 50, 53-60, 62, 76, 78, 81-84, 119-121 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nomura et al.

Nomura et al. teach an image forming apparatus having a process cartridge 14 which included a photosensitive drum 3 and a frame member 14a supporting the photosensitive drum. The process cartridge is slid out of the image forming apparatus as shown in Fig.2. The photosensitive drum is projected out from the frame member of the process cartridge as shown in Fig.s 8 and 9. A shutter 18 covers the exposed part of the photosensitive drum when the process cartridge is removed from the image forming apparatus. In a particular embodiment, the support frame also has guide member 36 having a slotted guide 37. A guide protrusion part 38 is located on the shutter of the process cartridge (see Fig.s 11-12). Upon insertion and removal of the process cartridge, the protrusion on the shutter will move along guide 37 and automatically cause the shutter to open or

closed (covering the photosensitive drum). See col.6, lines 15-51. The shutter moves in substantially a perpendicular direction to the direction of removal/insertion of the process cartridge. The end 18a of the shutter forms a tight contact with the support frame (col.6, lines 53-58). The shutter can be made from a conductive metal material (col.7, lines 46-47).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6,24,33,52,61,80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura et al. in view of Kubota et al.

Nomura et al. taught supra discloses most of what is claimed except the shutter being moved by plural projection/slot mechanisms and the tip of the shutter being rounded. Kubota et al. teach an image forming apparatus having a process cartridge U which is detachable from the image forming apparatus. The process cartridge has a shutter 26 having a rounded end. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the end of the shutter rounded as shown in Kubota et al. because there would be less likelihood of the photosensitive drum being scratched with a rounded end. It further

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use plural guide projections/slots to help move the shutter because this is a mere cascading of the invention taught in Nomura et al. and using plural would just make the movement easier albeit with more mechanical parts.

3. Claims 8-20,22,25,35-47,49,51,63-75,77,79,85 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
4. Claims 86-118,122-124 appear to be allowable over the prior art of record.
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Oguma, Dycher, Watanabe et al., Nakai et al., Kwak, Kashima et al., and Matsuo (JP) all teach process cartridges having protection shutters.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Beatty whose telephone number is (571) 272-2130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley, can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.



Robert Beatty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

June 24, 2005